



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 1067
Title: Doulas - Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group and Certification
Date: March 6, 2020
Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 1067 – Doulas – Doula Technical Assistance Advisory Group and Certification* with an amendment. The bill creates an advisory committee to study how to support doula services through voluntary certification and Medicaid reimbursement. Doulas and nurses are important partners in supporting individuals through pregnancy, labor and delivery, and the post-partum periods. Similar to community health workers, doulas provide supportive, rather than clinical services. These services can make a difference to individuals who face barriers in accessing and navigating the health care system. Their services could help Maryland lower maternal morbidity and mortality rates.

Given the importance of the partnership between nurses and doulas, we would like to request that there be an additional member of the advisory group:

“A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND NURSES ASSOCIATION WITH EXPERTISE IN PREGNANCY CARE”

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. We urge the committee to act on this important legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.